

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Final Office Action mailed January 20, 2006, Applicants propose to amend their application and request reconsideration in view of the proposed amendments and the following remarks. In this amendment, claims 1, 7 and 8 are proposed to be amended, claims 2, 4 and 9 are proposed to be cancelled without prejudice and claims 29-37 have been proposed to be withdrawn so that claims 1, 7 and 8 are currently pending. No new matter has been introduced.

Claims 1, 2, 4, and 7-9 were rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,609,627 to Goicoechea et al., (Goicoechea). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Anticipation exists only if all of the elements of the claimed invention are present in a system or method disclosed, expressly or inherently, in a single prior art reference. Therefore, if it can be shown that there is one difference between the claimed invention and what is disclosed in the single reference, there can be no anticipation.

Goicoechea fails to disclose a first prosthesis comprising a proximal section, a distal section and an intermediate section of the configuration claimed in amended Claim 1. Goicoechea fails to disclose an intermediate section having struts, configured to allow blood flow through a cross branch artery. Goicoechea fails to disclose proximal and distal sections having a diamond like lattice configuration. Goicoechea fails to disclose the intermediate section being substantially orthogonal between the proximal and distal sections. Since Goicoechea fails to disclose or suggest these items, there can be no anticipation. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

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A favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: March 7, 2006